



Meet the HPTC Masonry Team

Historic Preservation Training Center
Frederick, Maryland

Masonry Team Mission



The Masonry team is dedicated to preserving the structures and monuments of our National Park sites as well as other federal agencies and local governments.

We provide construction services, consulting, documentation and staff training delivered by highly skilled, knowledgeable and detail-oriented masons and crewmembers utilizing both modern technology and time-honored techniques.



Top: Jessica Bender talks repointing during the 2016 Preservation Trades Rodeo.



Bottom: Workshop participants practice laying up brick at Homestead National Monument.

Photo credit: NPS/S Polzin

Masonry Team Lead Staff



Gary Zbel, Section Chief.

Gary has been leading the Masonry Team since January of 2016. He was most recently Facility Manager at Gateway National Recreation Area and Pecos National Monument. He has served as a mentor in HPTC's PAST (Preservation and Skills Training) Program for 6 years.

Scott Jones, Exhibit Specialist

Scott began HPTC's 3-year Exhibit Specialist training program in 1997, after working for seven years at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. He has led varied projects across the country, including recently the installation of an accessible ramp to the Mast of the Maine monument. In his free time Scott is mentally preparing himself for the impending puberty of his fourth son.

Petey (Karen) Bender, Exhibit Specialist

Petey has been a core member of the Masonry Team for two decades. She began her NPS career at Gettysburg National Military Park and learned the masonry trade from retired HPTC mason, Dom DeRubis, who always bragged, "she could work circles around anyone". She has been an active member of the National Guard for 20 years.



Monument at Antietam Battlefield, scaffolded in preparation for bronze cleaning and waxing..
Photo credit: NPS/S Polzin

Masonry Team Lead Staff cont'd



Eric Hutchinson, Exhibit Specialist

Eric's NPS career started at Independence National Historic Park where he performed condition assessments. He joined HPTC in 2004 while still completing his Master's thesis from the [University of Pennsylvania Preservation Program](#) on the nearly-forgotten side-lap shingle. He started with the Carpentry team and has been with the Masonry team for 6 years. Eric is also one of nine HPTC employees who have completed the Building Preservation program at Belmont College. His other areas of specialty are dry stack and ashlar stone construction, and stone fabrication.

Dale Carpenter, Masonry Work Leader

Dale learned the masonry trade in a vo-tech program and worked as a union mason for several years before being hired by HPTC in 1993. His attention to detail has enabled him to perfect the art of the stone dutchman (cutting out chipped or deteriorated stone and replacing it with new material). He enjoys sharing his knowledge with anyone who wants to learn, riding his motorcycle and playing pool.



Dale Lupton begins a dutchman repair.
Photo credit: NPS/S Polzin

Areas of Specialty



- Mortar Matching
- Repointing and Dismantling and Reconstruction of Brick and Stone Structures
- Monument and Headstone Maintenance--Cleaning, Resetting, Repointing
- Bronze Statuary Cleaning and Waxing
- Stone Dutchman Repairs
- Concrete Matching and Repair

Top: Mold and castings to repair a damaged bronze monument at Gettysburg NMP.

Bottom: Isaac Forman interact with kids while demonstrating dry stone wall construction.

Photo credit: NPS/S Polzin



Featured Project

Rehab of Memorial Building Steps

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial, Hodgenville, KY



The monumental staircase leading to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial building had issues including uneven settling, misaligned stones, and drainage issues—all safety hazards.

Stone treads and concrete landing pads were removed using a vacuum lift system.



Left: Dale Lupton, Mason Work Leader, oversees the dismantling of the steps.

Bottom: Robert Beachley, Masonry Preservation Specialist, builds a mock-up for determining how to fabricate the exposed aggregate concrete landing replacements on the memorial staircase.

Photo credit: NPS/S Jones



Featured Project

Family Burial Ground Preservation

George Washington Birthplace, Colonial Beach Virginia



Tasks included

- Cleaning brick and headstones with antimicrobial detergent
- Repair of headstones and monuments
- Development of replacement mortar mix
- Selective repointing and structural repairs to boundary wall



Left: Sarcophagi repairs at George Washington Birthplace Family Burial Ground.

Right: Brianna Hummel, Environmental Steward, repoints the boundary wall.

Photo credit: NPS/S Jones.

